

OLC #78-1560/A

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Legislative Counsel


3 November 1978

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bentsen:

Mr. John Lofton, Jr., Syndicated Columnist, has contacted the Director of Public Affairs for the CIA, for our views on your bill, S. 1578, to protect the identities of intelligence personnel. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the response to Mr. Lofton. As we discussed previously, we look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely yours,


Frederick P. Hitz

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Enclosure



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

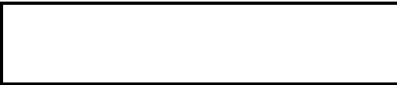
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-7676

1 November 1978

Mr. John Lofton, Jr. ;



Dear John:

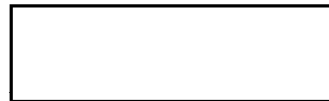
As you know, the problem of unauthorized disclosure of the identities of U.S. intelligence agents is a matter of grave concern and interest to the CIA. Admiral Turner has stated on a number of occasions that there is an urgent need to develop a means to protect the identities of U.S. intelligence sources, agents and employees under cover; this includes consideration of legislative remedies.

Senator Bentsen has also recognized the need for such legislation and in both the 94th and 95th Congresses introduced bills that would subject individuals to criminal penalties for publicizing the identities of American clandestine personnel.

We have been in touch with Senator Bentsen to discuss his latest bill, S. 1578. While we support the concept embodied in his bill, conclusions on the legislation including its detail and scope must await Administration deliberation. In the upcoming Congress we expect to work closely with Senator Bentsen, our oversight committees, and other Members and committees as appropriate on this matter.

I am certain that Senator Bentsen's office will be happy to provide you with further information regarding the details of S. 1578.

Sincerely,



Herbert E. Hetu
Director of Public Affairs

P.S.

Enclosed copy of Admiral Turner's speech at the
National Press Club last week may give you some additional
thoughts. *ll*